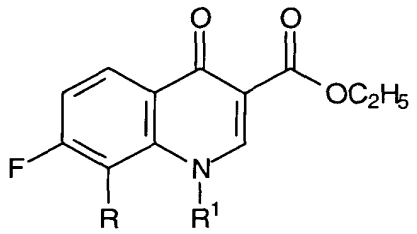
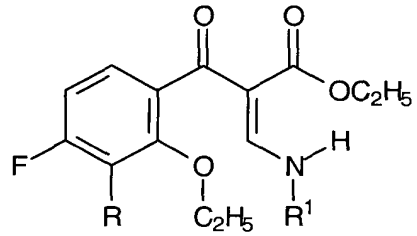
ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

PROCESS FOR PREPARING QUINOLONE ANTIBIOTIC INTERMEDIATES

The present invention relates to a process for preparing a quinolone antibiotic intermediate having the formula:



wherein R is C_1-C_2 alkyl, C_1-C_2 fluoroalkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, methoxy, chloro, or bromo; R^1 is a unit selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_2 alkyl, C_2-C_3 alkenyl, C_3-C_5 cycloalkyl, and phenyl, each of which can be substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; said process comprising the step of cyclizing an admixture of quinolone precursors, said admixture comprising a 2-ethoxy substituted intermediate having the formula:



in the presence of a silylating agent.